



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1511

**DATE:** June 2, 2015

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Ambulatory Surgical Center Providers

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Clarification on Multiple Surgery Rules

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

Recently, the IME Program Integrity Unit identified a number of multiple surgery pricing errors that resulted in both over and underpayments for services rendered over the past three years. The IME will be processing mass adjustments to correct the payment error and affected providers can expect the mass adjustments to begin in mid-June 2015. Providers who are significantly impacted by this adjustment will be contacted via telephone by the IME Provider Services Unit with a dollar amount prior to the mass adjustment.

As a reminder, ambulatory surgical centers receive a multiple surgery payment reduction whenever two or more services, or one service with more than one unit of service, are billed.

The payment reduction rules are as follows; the service with the highest reimbursement does not receive a reduction. All subsequent units and services receive a 50 percent payment reduction. When the 50 modifier is appended, the IME considers that two units of service were billed, and applies the multiple surgery reduction based on the multiple units of service.

It is **not** necessary for providers to append the 51 modifier when multiple surgical services are billed. The multiple surgery pricing rules are applied regardless of the presence of the 51 modifier.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or email [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).